

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
July 2, 2002

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, July 2, 2002, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter St., Edgefield. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman Kneece, and who also gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present:

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman
Norman Dorn, Councilman
Joel Hudson, Councilman
William R. Vaughan, Councilman

Others present:

Wayne Adams, County Administrator
John F. Byrd, Jr., County Attorney
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council
and others as per list attached

Minutes

Motion was made by Councilman Vaughan, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve the following minutes: June 4, 2002, regular county council meeting; June 4, 2002, public meeting concerning the hospital, and the June 4, 2002, public hearings (lease/purchase financing for 911 and Mt. Vernon Mills). Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Reports reviewed.

Old Business

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 01-02-424, "An Ordinance Adopting a Revised Strategic Plan for Economic Development for Edgefield County" was the first item under Old Business. Councilman Hudson questioned the ownership of a spec building. Mr. Hudson asked to go on record: "With the economy doing as it is and with all we are looking at what we have to pay, unless someone can show me different as far as the money we get back, I am against it and unless someone can show me we are making more money off of the industrial park than I think we are." Councilman Vaughan stated that he goes along with Mr. Hudson. Councilman Hudson said he would like to meet with the Economic Development Committee before he votes on this ordinance. Motion was made by Councilman Vaughan, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to postpone second reading of Ordinance No. 01-02-424 until council can meet with the Economic Development Committee. Motion carried.

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Motion was made by Councilman Vaughan, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the \$2,700 funding request from the Johnston Dixie Youth Baseball League, but in the future a representative from each entity should come before council. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve two working days for the road crew to clear land for a baseball field at the New and Living Way Church, Highway 19. Motion carried. This church is very near the Aiken/Edgefield County line. A member of the church was present and stated that the church is a non-profit organization, open to the public. This field will be for all of the children in the community.

Motion was made by Councilman Vaughan, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve accepting bids for repairs only to the roof of the ECCHO Building, Gray St., Edgefield (old Health Dept.). Motion carried. Although several bids had been received to replace and/or repair the roof, none of the bidders had bid on a single, consistent bid package sponsored by the county.

At this time, Councilman Dorn wanted to know why bids had to be received for some things and not for an auditing firm. Mr. Dorn feels the county has been with Elliott Davis too long without looking into a new firm. The chairman asked the administrator to look into the situation and find out what firms are available, etc. and report back to council.

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn, to accept first reading of Ordinance No. 01-02-425, "An Ordinance Enacting and Adopting a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances for Edgefield County, SC. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Vaughan, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve Resolution No. 01-02-250, "A Resolution by Edgefield County, Making Declaration of Intent Pursuant to United States Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service, Regulation 1.150-2." Motion carried. This Resolution would allow Edgefield County to reimburse itself through bond proceeds for preliminary costs incurred on the detention center project.

Item #3 under new business concerns amendments to A/E contract with Clark Group for detention center renovation project. This was discussed during the work session prior to the council meeting. This was received as information at that time. The Administrator stated that at this time consideration should be given to the producing of the record drawings; or as built floor plans (\$4,500.00). In order to get the master plan started, this has to be done. Councilman Vaughan made the motion to approve the amendment for record drawings. Motion seconded by Councilman Dorn. Motion carried unanimously.

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Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Vaughan, to approve Resolution No. 01-02-251, "A Resolution Providing for an Intergovernmental Agreement Between Edgefield and McCormick Counties, Whereby the Two Counties Will Jointly Utilize Edgefield County's Convenience Center Located at the Intersection US Highway 378 and S-19-68." Motion carried unanimously. Traffic volume is the lowest at this site of all the twenty-one sites in the Tri-County area. Joint use will prevent McCormick County from having to build an additional center.

The Sheriff's Department made a request of council to place speed limit signs and "children at play signs" on Blair Road. Councilman Vaughan made a motion to grant this request, seconded by Councilman Hudson. Motion carried unanimously.

The Veterans Day Committee asked council for a contribution of \$1,500 to help with the Veterans Day Celebration which will be held Saturday, November 8, 2002. County Council funded this Celebration in 2001. Motion was made by Councilman Vaughan, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to grant this request. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 7 under New Business (funding request from Edgefield Chamber of Commerce) was postponed until the August meeting. The Chamber requested this postponement.

Item 8 under New Business was requested by Councilman Dorn: The discussion of extending a water line from McCormick to 15-20 homes on State road 283 in the northern part of Edgefield County. A water line presently runs to Forest View Manor from McCormick County. Ms. Jackie Simpkins addressed council on this subject also. She lives in that area. Chairman Kneece stated that McCormick County volunteered to run the line before. There is a possibility they are getting more grant money for water – closer to them so it would more feasible for them to run the water line rather than Edgefield County. Rick Greene with Upper Savannah COG was present and informed council he had looked into this as far as the CDBG application is concerned. "There are a couple different options that could be looked at. One is to have McCormick County apply for a grant to do the water extension. Since it will serve people in Edgefield County, probably will not be their number one project. Second option would be for Edgefield County to apply for a grant and then they would turn over those water lines to McCormick County and would be part of the McCormick County system. The next cycle will be coming up in September of this year. One thing you have to think about is Edgefield County still has the Senior Center grant application in. We should know any day now whether that got funded. If it did not get funded the Senior Center could be brought up again in September and that could be the project you would want to put forward. If the Center does get funded, this could be your top project for the September cycle. It will also depend on how long the road is-how many people live on it, how long the potential water line will be-if it will be profitable and feasible to do it. All of the houses will have to be surveyed to see

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the income of the people in those houses to see if they would qualify. Over fifty-one (51%) or more need to be low to moderate income for it to qualify for CDBG funds.” The Administrator asked if it would be o.k. to start preparing the application.” Mr. Greene said yes, and would be good for Edgefield County to contact McCormick County and also talk with Ruth LaForge with Upper Savannah and let her know this is a project of interest to you. Edgefield County Water & Sewer Authority will have to approve because of territorial boundaries set by the legislature. The Administrator will look into this.

Claims approved as follows:

A. PAYROLL: 5-27-02 thru 6-9-02

Regular.....\$83,599.50

PAYROLL: 6-10-02 thru 6-23-02

Regular.....\$83,084.44

B. General Operating.....\$307,145.08

No guests.

Councilman Dorn asked the Administrator about the \$10.00 vehicle fee. The county will receive more funds than needed to service the debt (three year period) Mr. Dorn wanted to know if the necessary funds have been received before the designated time, could the county stop collecting the fee? The Administrator explained that the ordinance provides that any expenditures over and above the amount budgeted (also applies if you are going to spend the revenues over and above which you project to get) it has to be in a capital budget passed by the county council. At the end of the three years we will look and see what is left and council can decide what to spend the remaining funds on as long as it is for road maintenance equipment. The problem in stopping the collection before the end of the three-year period is that the fees are paid in a monthly cycle, not in a yearly cycle like property taxes. You will have in that same year people who have already paid before it is cut off and other people after won't.

Executive Session

Council convened in executive session pursuant to Code Section §30-4-70 (a) (2), South Carolina Code of Laws to receive legal advice concerning a threatened or potential claim against the county.

Returning to regular session, the chairman stated that attorneys have not completed their negotiations. No action would be taken at this time.

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There being no further business, Councilman Bright made the motion to adjourn. The next regular council meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2002.

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

Norman Dorn, Councilman

Joel Hudson, Councilman

William R. Vaughan, Councilman

ATTEST

Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council